

the end of this Congress will be greatly appreciated.●

NAHRO AWARDS OF MERIT

● Mr. HATFIELD. Mr. President, each year the National Association of Housing and Redevelopment Officials (NAHRO) honors low-income housing and community development agencies nationwide through the NAHRO Agency Awards of Merit in Housing and Community Development. This awards program recognizes the efforts of agencies that have demonstrated a clear commitment and ability to address the unique and special needs of their communities. I would like to take a moment to recognize the three recipients of this award from the State of Oregon for their dedicated efforts.

The first Oregon recipient is the Housing Authority of Washington County for their Claire Court project. Recently purchased and renovated by the Authority, Claire Court is an apartment residence that was built in 1945 with a substantial amount of war surplus materials. While the housing complex had an excellent framework, the extensive use of lead-base paint, asbestos insulation, and outdated plumbing and wiring had created a significant hazard for residents. The renovation of Claire Court not only removed and replaced hazardous materials with safe, energy-efficient products, but also maintained neighborhood architecture and adapted two of the eight units to ADA and UFAS accessible living standards.

The Housing Authority of Portland, for the Fairview Oaks and Woods Interpretive Nature Trail, is the second Oregon recipient of the NAHRO Award of Merit. This 3,000-foot trail was created as a part of the new 328-unit Fairview Oaks and Fairview Woods housing complex, and utilized the cooperative efforts of high school students, apartment residents, and other local agencies. The interpretive nature trail, which features detailed markings and is handicapped accessible, serves as an excellent example of an innovative solution to balancing the growing need for affordable housing, while also preserving natural wildlife areas.

The final award recipient from Oregon is the Housing Authority of the City of Salem for their Family Stabilization Program. While many agencies of this kind are successful in helping individuals in the community, the Salem Housing Authority devised this program in an attempt to bring community providers together and transfer their success with individuals into success for their families as well. The Family Stabilization Program has helped coordinate the efforts of programs dealing in drug prevention, family self-sufficiency, and parenting—among others—and has resulted in increased participation by families in all areas.

The State of Oregon is truly fortunate to have such dedicated and inno-

vative housing and community development agencies working in our communities. I am honored to recognize these groups for their efforts, and to congratulate them on receiving the NAHRO Award of Merit.●

REAUTHORIZATION OF THE EPA LONG ISLAND SOUND OFFICE

● Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to note the critical importance of this legislation, the Water Resources Development Act, to the future of Connecticut's most valuable natural resource, Long Island Sound.

Included in the bill is a provision reauthorizing the EPA's Long Island Sound Office [LISO], which was established by legislation I was proud to sponsor 6 years ago, and which is now responsible for coordinating the massive clean-up effort ongoing in the Sound. Quite simply, the LISO is the glue holding this project together, and I want to express my deep appreciation to the chairman and ranking member of the Environment and Public Works Committee—Senators CHAFEE and BAUCUS—for their help in making sure this Office stays open for business.

Mr. President, the Long Island Sound Office has been given a daunting task—orchestrating a multibillion dollar, decade-long initiative that requires the cooperation of nearly 150 different Federal, State, and municipal agents and offices. Despite the odds, and the limited resources it has had to work with, the LISO is succeeding. Over the last few years, the EPA office has developed strong working relationships with the State environmental protection agencies in Connecticut and New York, local government officials along the Sound coastline and a number of proactive citizen groups. Together, these many partners have made tremendous progress toward meeting the six key goals we identified in the Sound's long-term conservation and management plan.

The plan's top priority is fighting hypoxia, which is caused by the release of nutrients into the Sound's 1,300 square miles of water. Thanks in part to the LISO's efforts, nitrogen loads have dropped 5,000 pounds per day from the baseline levels of 1990, exceeding all expectations. In addition, all sewage treatment plants in Connecticut and in New York's Westchester, Suffolk and Nassau counties are now in compliance with the "no net increase" agreement brokered by the LISO, while the four New York City plants that discharge into the East River are expected to be in compliance by the end of this year. And the LISO is coordinating 15 different projects to retrofit treatment plants with new equipment that will help them reduce the amount of nitrogen reaching the Sound.

The LISO and its many partners have made great strides in other areas, such as cracking down on the pathogens, toxic substances, and litter that have been finding their way into the Sound

watershed and onto area beaches. A major source of toxic substances are industrial plants, and over the last few years the LISO has helped arrange more than 30 "pollution prevention" assessments at manufacturing facilities in Connecticut that enable companies to reduce emissions and cut their costs. Also, New York City has recently reduced the amount of floatable debris it produces by 70%, thanks to the use of booms on many tributaries and efforts to improve the capture of combined sewer overflows.

With Congress's help, the LISO will soon be able to build on that progress and significantly broaden its efforts to bring the Sound back to life. This week the House and Senate approved an appropriation of the \$700,000 for the Long Island Sound Office, doubling our commitment from the current fiscal year. These additional funds will be used in part to launch an ambitious habitat restoration project. The States of New York and Connecticut have been working with the LISO and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to develop a long-term strategy in this area, and they have already identified 150 key sites. The next step is to provide grants to local partnerships with local towns and private groups such as the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation and The Nature Conservancy, which would focus on restoring tidal and freshwater wetlands, submerged aquatic vegetation, and areas supporting anadromous fish populations.

The funding will also be used for site-specific surveys to identify and correct local sources of non-point source pollution. This effort will focus on malfunctioning septic systems, stormwater management and illegal stormwater connections, improper vessel waste disposal, and riparian protection. All of these sources contribute in some way to the release of pathogens and toxic compounds into the Sound, a problem that is restricting the use of area beaches and shellfish beds and hurting our regional economy.

Finally, the LISO will continue to build on the successful public education and outreach campaign it initiated last year. In New York, the LISO has already been in contact with public leaders in 50 local communities, held follow-up meetings with officials in 15 key areas, and scheduled on-the-water workshops for this fall. The LISO is planning to conduct a similar effort to reach out to Connecticut communities in 1997.

All of this could have been put in jeopardy, however, if we had not acted to extend the LISO's authorization, which is set to expire next week. The clean-up project is a team effort, with many important contributors, but it would be extremely difficult for those many partners to work in concert and keep moving forward without the leadership and coordination that the LISO has supplied. So I want to thank my colleagues, especially my friends from Rhode Island and from Montana, for